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Sept. 20, 1999

Docket # 97N-0074

I understand that the Presidents Inter-Agency Council on Food Safety is analyzing how to improve food safety....and that the Council is in the process of developing a strategic plan and is requesting public input.

First and foremost, food safety hazards need to be addressed at the source, with mandatory safeguards at the animal production stage.

At present, factory farms include overcrowding, and the animals are subjected to stressful procedures and conditions. They are fed chicken litter and feces, rendering diseased animals into animal feed. There is excessive use of antibiotics and other drugs, and inhumane and unhygienic transport and slaughter.

Short of correcting the above, any food safety plan is doomed to fail.

I understand there is a great deal of pressure from industry to exclude the animals from consideration in the council's plan.

The problem should be dealt with at its source.

Thank you,



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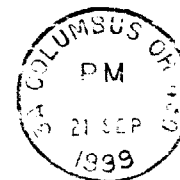
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